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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

*Superintending School Committee*

OF THE

TOWN OF WALPOLE,



WITH THE

HIGH SCHOOL REPORT,

1858-59.

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BELLOWS FALLS:  
PRINTED AT THE PHENIX JOB OFFICE.  
1859.



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## REPORT.

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### TO THE TOWN OF WALPOLE:—

The amount of money appropriated for schools was as follows:

Raised by Tax,	\$2,122 00
Income from Fox Legacy,	60 00
“ “ Sparhawk Note,	34 65
Received from the State,	138 60
Amount,	<u>\$2,355 25</u>

### SUMMER SCHOOLS.

District No. 2. This school was taught by Miss E. M. TEMPLE. At our first visit it appeared well. Of its close we cannot speak, as the examination was one day earlier than the notice we received. But all seemed satisfied, and we presume it was a successful school.

No. 3. Miss JULIA A. MELLISH, teacher. The committee was not informed of the time of the closing examination of this school, so that it was visited but once, but from what we then saw we fear it was not a very successful school.

No. 4 was taught by Miss MARIA KILBURN. This was her first attempt at teaching. At the commencement the school seemed to lack interest and animation, which the teacher did not fully succeed in arousing; yet it was well

governed, and the pupils made commendable progress. We saw nothing to censure on the part of the teacher, but much to commend.

No. 5. Miss EMMA J. DIGGINS, teacher. This school was smaller than usual. The teacher seemed faithful and competent, and as a whole, we regarded it as a successful term.

In No. 6 there was only a term of 8 weeks in the Autumn, taught by Miss E. F. THOMPSON, who manifested much ability in teaching. There was also much interest manifested on the part of the scholars. It was an excellent school.

No. 7. No school.

No. 8 was taught by Miss CARRIE O. MASON, with good success. The record showed a large average attendance, and no tardy marks.

No. 9. Miss JANE MARCH, teacher. The school was well taught and well governed. Miss March is one of our best teachers, and we only need to say that she sustained her reputation in this school.

No. 10 was taught by Miss LIZZIE LIVINGSTON. It was her first school, but she seemed to understand well the duties of the school-room. There was mutual good feeling between teacher and scholars, and remarkably good progress was made in the branches taught. It was one of the best conducted schools in town.

In No. 11 no teacher was presented for examination, and no school was recognized by the committee. We were told that a teacher was employed without examination. This has been repeatedly done in this district, for which we think them deserving of censure.

No. 12. This school was under the care of Miss LOUISA E. ALDEN. The teacher seemed anxious to do her duty, and the scholars were somewhat interested in their studies, but there was a great want of good government, without which no school can prosper. The progress of the scholars



generally, in their studies, was not what we had reason to expect, although some few did well.

No. 13. Teacher, Miss LORETTA H. BRITTON. We cannot speak in very high terms of this school. The teacher evidently wished to do well, but failed in the first requisite to success,—good order. Some scholars, however, made good progress in their studies.

No. 14 was under the care of Miss E. F. THOMPSON. This was a good school; yet the teacher did not exercise due care and accuracy in filling out the register.

### WINTER SCHOOLS.

District No. 2. Miss R. MARION ALBEE, teacher. This school was taught with good success. The house was not as quiet, nor the recitations as perfect as we could have wished, yet considering the age of the scholars, we think the teacher accomplished all that could reasonably be expected.

No. 3 was taught by Mr. MARTIN WELLINGTON. The school was well governed, and the committee was much pleased with Mr. Wellington's manner of teaching, particularly in arithmetic. It was in most respects a very successful school.

No. 4. Mr. I. W. DERBY, teacher. We hardly know how to speak of this school. Mr. Derby evidently wished to do well, but some circumstances were against him at the commencement. Some classes, particularly the reading classes, appeared well at the close; but other classes were very deficient. The order of the school was not what it should have been. As a whole we should say the school was neither very good nor very bad.

No. 5. This school was taught by Mr. L. B. STARK-WEATHER. It was one of the best schools we have seen in town. The classes did not go over as much ground as at sometimes, but were thoroughly acquainted with all they

had studied. There were no poor classes. Whispering was entirely excluded, and the order in all respects good.

No. 6. This was also a very successful school, taught by Mr. D. L. MANSFIELD. The teacher was faithful and thorough. The pupils were all interested and studious, and made remarkably good progress in their studies. In one respect this school is an example for all others. There was not an instance of tardiness, and but few absences.

No. 7. Miss E. A. KINGSBURY, teacher. Both the teacher and the school have had a high reputation heretofore. We expected much of the present term, and saw no reason at the opening of the school why these expectations would not be fully realized. Of its success, however, we cannot speak, being prevented from visiting it at the close.

No. 8. Mr. JOHN L. HOUGHTON, teacher. This school sustained its reputation, and Mr. Houghton proved himself a faithful and successful teacher.

No. 9. This school closed without any examination, but it was visited several times during the winter, and we regarded it as a prosperous school. Mr. F. W. MESSENGER was the teacher.

No. 10 was taught by Mr. C. P. HALL. Mr. Hall is a good scholar, and labored hard to have a good school; yet he seems to be lacking in some traits of character essential to success in the occupation of teacher. The school was visited twice during the first part of the term, and we saw nothing to censure. Towards the close some difficulties arose, but the teacher continued through the term, and the examination indicated considerable progress in most of the classes.

No. 11. This is a very small school, composed of small scholars. On the day when the committee went to visit it first, the teacher was away, and there was no school. We went again at the time we supposed it was to close, but found that the district had contributed money enough to



have it continue four weeks longer. This fact speaks for the satisfaction given by the teacher. The committee was also satisfied with the general appearance of the school. It was taught by Miss MARY L. WATKINS.

No. 12. This school was not visited at the close, as the teacher, in consequence of sickness, was obliged to leave it a few days before the time for the examination. But we were in twice during the term, and from what we saw are confident it was a superior school.

No. 13 was in charge of Mr. C. B. FAY. This was a very good school. The manner of teaching and the advancement of the scholars in their studies was highly satisfactory.

No. 14. This school was taught by Miss EMMA J. DIGGINS. At its commencement all appeared well, but afterward trouble arose which greatly marred the success of the school. Proper order was not maintained, and we think both scholars and teacher were in fault.

### GENERAL REMARKS.

In the general character and success of our schools the past year, there was great diversity. None of them were all we could desire, yet some were remarkably good. The majority were above mediocrity. With some there was decided improvement. Some schools which we reported last year as almost, or quite failures, we class among the very best this year. No teacher during the year failed to continue through the term commenced, yet in some instances the schools amounted to but little. With some there was but little vitality or energy. Some nearly failed through lack of proper discipline.

Of the primary causes of the good success of some of our schools, and the partial failure of others, we cannot speak in detail. We only suggest a few things.

We have often said, and another year's experience has confirmed us in the belief, that the first requisite to a good school is a good teacher. "As is the teacher so is the school," is a truthful proverb. We want teachers not only well qualified in the branches to be taught, but also competent to govern and give character to the school. If the teacher is not able to maintain discipline of himself, no one else can do it for him. He must keep the school. If he is deficient, no advice or assistance of the committee can supply that deficiency. It is an unpleasant duty for the committee to reject the candidates offered, and it often results in trouble. This we have felt obliged to do in some instances, and in one or two others where we gave our approbation with many fears, the result has proved that it would have been better to have withheld it. We hope all will be ready to sustain the committee if they adopt a more elevated standard, as we feel they ought to do. Let teachers feel sure they are qualified before they offer themselves.

The law now makes it the duty of the committee to examine in all branches which they think best to be taught in the several schools, so that the teacher who would be qualified for one school may not be for another. Let Prudential Committees see to it that none but competent teachers are engaged. And another thing is important for them to consider. It is not only essential that we have well qualified teachers, but also that we get the right teacher in the right place. We have had some striking illustrations of this the past year. A teacher may succeed admirably in one school and fail in another, while he is qualified in all the branches taught in both, for the simple reason that he is adapted to the one, while he is out of place in the other. Do not then trust entirely to past reports in your selection of teachers. A teacher may be reported as successful in one school, and not be the one for you, because your school is of a different character. In every case



then, ask yourselves the question, Is this the best teacher for us?

With the best teachers, however, our schools will not prosper without the countenance and co-operation of parents and citizens. Some of our schools fail entirely in consequence of the outside influences operating against them. Let all parents encourage and sustain the teachers, stimulate their children, and show their interest in the schools by their frequent visits, and we believe they will have less occasion to complain of poor schools than now.

There has been an unusual, and we think, unnecessary amount of absences the past year. This is a great evil. If scholars are not regular and punctual they cannot profit as they otherwise would. Let there be an effort to have a better report in this respect next year.

Some of the teachers, in making their report to the committee, complain that their efforts have been seriously hindered by the influence of dancing schools, which a large portion of the scholars attended. A school report is no place to preach against dancing in general, yet so far as it has a bearing on the success of our schools, we have a right to express our opinion. We have been teachers ourselves, and have had experience in this matter, and we doubt not these complaints are well founded. If parents wish to neutralize all efforts for the prosperity of our schools, let them encourage their children in going to dancing schools, balls and parties three or four times in the week during the term, and they will most effectually accomplish their purpose. It is vain to say that these things do not infringe upon school hours. Every one who has ever been a teacher, knows that they do affect the school in all its relations, by taking the minds and hearts of the scholars away from their studies.

We cannot close this report without referring again to the subject of text-books. Here there is no improvement. There is an almost endless variety, much to the detriment

of the schools. This threatens to be a growing evil unless speedily checked. Rival publishing houses have their agents all over the country, hawking about different series of books and making liberal offers for their introduction. The committee heretofore have recommended books, but not prescribed nor proscribed them. Owing to this, teachers have introduced many new ones. There should be uniformity throughout the town, and those adopted should not be often changed. We think therefore, in view of all these circumstances, that the time has come when the committee should exercise their authority in this matter, and as soon as the proper books can be decided upon, that they be prescribed and all others kept out. When the effort is made, we hope all will be ready to acquiesce in it.

In conclusion, we would say that in the success of our schools as a whole, during the past year, and in their present condition, there is every encouragement to increased vigilance and effort in their behalf, and when all are ready to do what lies in their power, we believe they will be satisfied that they have not labored in vain, neither spent their money for nought.

JOHN M. STOW,  
J. WM. KNIGHT,  
GEORGE ALDRICH.



TABLE I.

## SUMMER SCHOOLS.

DISTRICTS, - - - - -	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Length of School, in weeks, - - - - -	8		12	12	8		10	13	12		13	12	10
Wages of female Teachers per month, including board, \$17			\$13	\$13.40	\$15.1		\$10	\$15.1	\$11		\$16	\$14	\$18
Scholars 4 years of age and upwards, - - - - -	21		31	13	11		11	30	18		30	18	12
Average attendance, - - - - -	13		25.45	10.32	9		10.20	27	13		23	16.20	8
Scholars between 4 and 16 years, - - - - -	20		31	12	11		11	30	17		30	18	0
Scholars over 16, - - - - -	0		0	1	0		0	0	1		0	0	12
Number of tardinesses, - - - - -	43		41	3	7		0	21	28		19	113	0
Number not absent, - - - - -	1		3	3	1		7	3	5		1	1	2
Number not tardy, - - - - -	11		12	11	7		11	25	8		23	0	11
Number not absent nor tardy, - - - - -	0		3	3	1		3	4	3		1	0	2
Number of absences, - - - - -	130		378	217½	57		48	214	330		479	261	46
Number of visits by Superintending School Committee, - - - - -	2		2	2	2		2	2	2		2	2	2
Number of visits by Prudential Committee, - - - - -	0		1	3	2		1	0	1		2	1	0
Number of visits by Citizens and others, - - - - -	6		45	44	20		40	50	36		41	30	20
REGISTER NOT RETURNED.													
No SCHOOL.													

TABLE II.  
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WINTER SCHOOLS.

DISTRICTS,	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Length of School, in weeks.	12	13	12	11	13	16	12	13	12	12	14	12	12
Wages of male Teacher per month, including board,	\$18	\$29	\$31 50	\$32	\$24	\$20	\$23	\$33	\$27	\$20	\$35	\$26	\$20
Wages of female Teachers per month, including board,	27	22	35	23	16	8	20	34	28	15	36	21	21
Number of Scholars 4 years of age and upwards,	25	19½	29 64	20 30	15 4	7 1	18 30 14	31	21	13 40	30¼	19 62	16 81
Average attendance,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Number between 4 and 16 years,	25	18	5	15	13	7	17	73	162	14	33	18	21
Number over 16,	2	4	5	8	3	1	3	3	6	26	3	3	0
Number of tardinesses,	-	-	32	14	6	0	78	162	5	4	320	54	28
Number not absent,	-	-	3	6	6	3	5	1	5	4	0	5	3
Number not tardy,	-	-	7	13	16	8	8	12	4	8	3	9	9
Number not absent nor tardy,	-	-	1	5	6	3	3	1	0	3	0	2	1
Number of absences,	132	191	230	165	69	77	178	153	204	104	413	91	276
Number of visits by Superintending School Committee,	0	1	3	2	2	1	2	2	4	2	2	2	6
Number of visits by Prudential Committee,	-	-	1	2	0	12	2	0	2	2	0	2	1
Number of visits by Citizens and others,	13	30	53	44	29	62	63	25	39	43	20	54	25



# REPORT

OF THE

## SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE

### OF DISTRICT NO. 1.

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The three departments in this district have been under the care of the same teachers as during the previous year. All the schools have progressed very quietly, and, in the main, very profitably.

#### PRIMARY DEPARTMENT.

This school was under the care of Miss EDNA HALL, and made most decided and satisfactory progress. Miss Hall succeeded in securing excellent order without losing the respect and good will of her pupils. The department of scholars has never been better. In their recitations they seemed thoroughly acquainted with all that they had been over. The several examinations were highly creditable.

#### INTERMEDIATE DEPARTMENT.

Miss ROSETTE H. RUST taught this school. We found here less to censure and more to commend than during any previous year. There have ever been serious defects in this school, which have greatly hindered its usefulness, not all of which are yet remedied; yet the committee were much gratified in the evidence of constant progress from term to

term, culminating in the closing examination of the year, which, as a whole, was the best we have ever seen in this school. Miss Rust is a faithful and efficient teacher, and we think the district may feel satisfied with the success of the school while under her care.

### HIGH SCHOOL.

Mr. RICHARDSON continued in this school, completing his second year. There have been more scholars in the school than during any previous year except the first, and so far as we know, all have been pleased with the school. There have been no jars or disturbances during the year. The scholars in general have seemed respectful and obedient. At the last examination several of the classes showed a want of interest, application and familiarity with their studies. Yet taking into account the age and capacity of the majority of the scholars, we regard it as a successful year of the school. Both teacher and pupils deserve much credit.

While we thus speak in commendatory terms of the schools in general, we regret to say that there yet exist some serious evils which greatly hinder their prosperity, in which we see no improvement upon the previous year. By reference to the statistical Report you will see that there has been an alarming amount of absences for the year. This report is taken directly from the daily record of the teachers.

In the High school there were 1177 days absence—an average of 33 days to the scholar. In the Intermediate school, 1037—an average of 24 days to the scholar. Primary school, 1743, an average of 40 days to the scholar. Now after deducting all *necessary* absences, we are persuaded that there ought to be a decided improvement upon these figures. We call the attention of parents particularly to this matter. Here is something that demands immediate remedy.



In conclusion, we would say, that while our system of schools is not accomplishing all we could desire, we believe the fault is not in the system itself, but in the influences which block and retard its operation. These are gradually, though slowly, being removed, and the schools coming upon a better basis year by year, and when all parties concerned will give their influence and efforts to promote their welfare, we believe they will feel amply rewarded with the results accomplished.

JOHN M. STOW,  
J. WM. KNIGHT,  
GEO. ALDRICH.

TABLE III.  
DISTRICT NO. 1.

	SPRING TERM.			FALL TERM.			WINTER TERM.		
	Primary Department.	Intermediate Department.	High School.	Primary Department.	Intermediate Department.	High School.	Primary Department.	Intermediate Department.	High School.
Length of school, in weeks, - - -	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
Wages of teacher per month, inc. board, -	\$22	\$24	\$55 55	\$22	\$24	\$55 55	\$22	\$26	\$55 55
Scholars 4 years of age and upwards, -	47	41	26	49	42	43	34	48	34
Average attendance, - - -	34 $\frac{1}{2}$	35.27	21	41 $\frac{1}{2}$	34.77	33 $\frac{1}{2}$	24 $\frac{2}{3}$	40.46	28.72
Scholars between 4 and 16, - - -	47	40	19	49	42	26	34	47	24
Scholars over 16, - - -	0	1	7	0	0	17	0	1	10
Number of tardinesses, - - -	58	38	6	70	48	34	24	39	68
Number not absent, - - -	1	5	5	1	7	2	0	7	1
Number not tardy, - - -	31	27	23	26	26	28	19	33	17
Number not absent nor tardy, - - -	2	5	5	1	7	3	0	6	2
Number of absences, - - -	755	383	299	458	302	559	550	352	319
Visits of Superintendent's School Committee, -	6	7	8	7	9	14	5	8	11
Visits of Prudential Committee, - - -	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0
Visits of Citizens and others, - - -	30	22	66	65	65	145	52	50	115





